

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03023 070951Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9422

S E C R E T BEIRUT 3023

NODIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE

SUBJ: SYRIANS - LEBANESE

1. JUDGING FROM THE TONE OF THE SYRIAN PRESS, I THINK IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE - AND PERHAPS IT HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE - TO GIVE SYRIANS RUN-DOWN ON MY TALKS WITH MARONITES. IT WOULD ALLAY MESSAGE OF CONCERN WHICH SEEMS TO BE COMING THROUGH FROM DAMASCUS THAT WE ARE LETTING DOWN THE CHRISTIANS AND THAT ONLY SYRIA IS INTERESTED IN THEIR FATE.

2. WE SHOULD ALSO GET TO SYRIANS GEMAYEL'S WILLINGNESS TO GET THE PHALANGE INTO THE SECURITY BUSINESS.

3. ON THE OTHER SIDE, JUMBLATT REMAINS FURIOUS WITH THE SYRIANS. HIS CONFIDANT ABOU DIAB URGES THAT WE TRY TO CONCILIATE SYRIANS WITH JUMBLATT. SAYS ANOTHER INVITATION TO JUMBLATT MIGHT HELP. ALSO HELPFUL WOULD BE TO RESTRAIN LOCAL BAATH LEADER KANSO. DEPT SHOULD DECIDE IF WE WANT TO GET INTO THE MIDDLE OF THIS, BUT IT SEEMS WORTH THE TRY.

4. FINALLY, REGARDING OUR OWN RELATIONS WITH THE SYRIANS OVER LEBANON, IT SEEMS ADVISABLE TO REASSURE DAMASCUS THAT OUR EFFORTS HERE ARE NOT INTENDED TO SNATCH ANY CREDIT AWAY FROM THEM. I HAVE, IN FACT, BEEN PRAISING SYRIAN EFFORT AND ASSAD SHOULD KNOW THAT.

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